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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1951

SUBJECT Security Measures, Troop Movements,
Fortifications, Warehouses

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1. Security Measures:

- a. The Albanians have organized small detachments wearing [] uniforms in order to misguide (sic) nationalist peasants who desire to help the nationalist guerrillas. Such detachments are allegedly located at Delvine with 30 men, and at Repasene with 30 men.
- b. There is a special battalion at Gjinokaster, consisting of 200 men, which is part of the pursuit brigade located at Berat. All are Communists and come from the Special Pursuit Brigades which were organized in the past.
- c. There are gendarmerie stations only at the headquarters of the Lokaliteti. The Popular Militia has been re-organized. Today in every village there are 3 to 5 armed men who are the village police, and who are under the control of the people's committee. Since May 1950, 4 to 6 gendarmes have been placed as guards at all the important bridges.

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2. Soviets in Albania:

- a. There are indications that the number of Soviets in Albania has increased. [] during June about 500 to 600 Soviet officers arrived in Tirane [] to train Albanian army units. Many families of Soviet troops and specialists arrived and they now live at Tirane, Durrës, and Vlone. [] there are two low-ranking Soviet officers in every battalion. The personnel of the Soviet military mission in the divisions and battalions was reinforced.
- b. The political and technical personnel was reinforced and Soviet technicians and advisors are directors of the offices. Soviet political and technical personnel in Albania amount to 2,500-3,000 persons (sic).

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3. Troop Movements:

- a. About 15 July 1950, the 31 Infantry Regiment of the 5 Division departed for the area of Kukes (B 90-20). This regiment was replaced by 23 Infantry

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Regiment which came from Tirane or Vlone, and camped in the area of Delvine-Vurg. The 18 Infantry Regiment moved from Delvine-Vurg to the area of Gjorgucat-Gjinokaster.

- b. Frequent movements within units (companies, battalions, regiments) to various places within the same zone are made either to carry out exercises or for some fortification project. These movements are also for propaganda because the Communists tell the people that Albania is being menaced by Greece and Yugoslavia, and therefore their country is forced to take added military measures for security.

4. Fortifications:

- a. In the area of Finiq (M 37-83), Lykurse (M 34-78), Nivica (R 30-88), Qafe Bresnit (R 33-87), and Paliavli (R 38-91), projects are being carried out by units of 23 Infantry Regiment and mechanized units. Machine gun emplacements and trenches are being constructed. Concrete machine gun emplacements are being constructed at Lykursi, and it appears that a battery of 105's will be placed there.
- b. In the area of Mesopotami (R 40-83) on the banks of the Bistrice, work is being done on fortifications by units of 23 Infantry Regiment.
- c. A mechanized unit of 5 Division at Gjinokaster is working on fortifications at Gjorgucat where concrete anti-tank battery emplacements are being constructed.

5. Warehouses:

- a. There are large munitions warehouses, some underground, at Mashkullore (about location M 43-06). There is a warehouse at Gardikaki (R 46-86), and a munitions and supply warehouse at Gjashta (R 34-80). There are food, supply and fuel warehouses at Sarande, and at Dardhe near the harbor.

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